

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-08

ARA-06 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSC-05

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1938

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DISTO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, SW, HU, US, UR

SUBJ: CCD-721ST PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 17, 1976

1. SUMMARY: US, USSR, UK, SWEDEN, JAPAN, AND HUNGARY
SPOKE IN AUGUST 17 CCD PLENARY. US STATEMENT REFLECTED
CONTINUING DOUBT ABOUT SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL
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(COMPREHENSIVE TREATY APPROACH) AND INCLUDED STRONG

STATEMENT ON APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING TREATIES TO VARIOUS TYPES OF SUCH WEAPONS. USSR STATEMENT CONTAINED AFFIRMATION THAT POSSIBLE MDW AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO EXCLUDE SUCH WEAPONS COVERED BY EXISTING AGREEMENTS OR NEGOTIATIONS. UK REP PRAISED FIRST REPORT OF SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP, CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION BY EASTERN-BLOC COUNTRIES, AND CRITICIZED SOVIET MDW APPROACH. SWEDEN ALSO ATTACKED MDW PROPOSAL, SAYING THAT SOVIET CRITERIA REQUIRE "CONSIDERABLE RESTRICTIONS." JAPAN INTRODUCED A WORKING PAPER PRESENTING A SPECTRUM OF TOXICITY VALUES FOR COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION. IN TOUR D'HORIZON, HUNGARIAN REP CRITICIZED ON-SITE INSPECTION PROVISIONS OF UK CW DRAFT. END SUMMARY

2. US REP (MARTIN), PRESENTING PRELIMINARY US VIEWS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL ON NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, STATED THAT US SENT AN EXPERT TO INFORMAL MDW MEETINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG-STANDING PRACTICE OF CONTRIBUTING TO TECHNICAL CCD DISCUSSIONS, BUT THAT THIS PRACTICE DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OF PARTICULAR PROPOSALS. THIS, HE SAID, APPLIES TO THE SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, EMPHASIZING THAT THE USG "HAS NOT COME TO A POLICY DECISION REGARDING POSSIBLE TREATY PROHIBITIONS ON NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION."

3. GIVEN PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN ARMS CONTROL MATTERS, MARTIN STATED, EXAMINATION OF DIVERSE NEW TYPES OF MDW WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF DEFINITION, SCOPE, AND VERIFICATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. HE SAID THE US WOULD CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR DEFINING THE TERM "WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION," BUT DOUBTS THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A RIGOROUS DEFINITION USEFUL FOR FORMAL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. ON THE ONE HAND, SUCH A DEFINITION WOULD RISK BEING TOO GENERAL OR AMBIGUOUS; ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE SO SPECIFIC OR RIGID AS TO EXCLUDE UNFORESEEN SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS.

4. GENERAL INTERNATIONAL USAGE, MARTIN STATED, CLEARLY PLACES NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATEGORY OF "WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION." NBC WEAPONS ARE LIMITED, HE SAID, BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN FORCE, AND THE US STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL "SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, SUGGEST DILUTION OF THE INTEGRITY OR SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF EXISTING TREATIES OR NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNED WITH SPECIFIC KINDS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION." FURTHER, MARTIN DECLARED, THE USG "WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT

TO ACCEPT STATEMENTS THAT APPEAR UNJUSTIFIABLY TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE SCOPE OF ALREADY EXISTING AGREEMENTS."

5. CITING 1970 REMARKS IN CCD BY US BIOLOGIST JOSHUA LEDERBERG TO THE EFFECT THAT "GENETIC ENGINEERING" (OR "RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES") COULD BE USED TO DESIGN RADICALLY NEW VIRUSES FOR BW PURPOSES, MARTIN STRESSED THAT "SUCH USE CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE BW CONVENTION'S PROHIBITION," BASED ON ITS EXPLICIT LANGUAGE AS WELL AS ITS NEGOTIATING HISTORY.

6. SUMMARIZING HIS REMARKS ON THE SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, MARTIN SAID THAT THE SUBJECT IS NOT ONLY COMPLEX, BUT ALSO CONCEPTUALLY ELUSIVE. ANY FURTHER PURSUIT OF THE PROPOSAL, MARTIN SAID, WOULD REQUIRE A STABLE FOUNDATION OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED UNDERSTANDINGS, AS WELL AS THE ASSURANCE OF A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

7 USSR REP (LIKHACHEV), ALSO DISCUSSING THE SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER SIGNS OF INCREASED INTEREST IN THE TOPIC, AS REFLECTED BY THE PARTICIPATION

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939
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IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF 15 EXPERTS FROM 11 STATES.
LIKHATCHEV STATED THAT A RECENTLY SUBMITTED SOVIET
WORKING PAPER ON MDW SCOPE AND DEFINATION IS MEANT TO
DESCRIBE ALL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, NOT JUST NEW ONES.
PAPER DOES NOT COVER NEW VARIANTS OF TRADITIONAL WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION, WHICH ONLY REPRESENTS MODERNIZATION OR
IMPROVEDMENTS NOT CAUSING QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES IN THE
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ACTION OF THE DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS. FURTHER, THE USSR
REP INDICATED, THE SCOPE OF A POSSIBLE MDW AGREEMENT WOULD
HAVE TO EXCLUDE THOSE TYPES OF MDW COVERED BY AGREEMENTS
ALREADY CONCLUDED OR IN PREPARATION, CITING IN THIS CONNECTION
BWC, CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND ENVIORNMENTAL MODIFICATION. (RUSSION
TEXT OF USSR STATEMENT POUCHED AS GENEVA AIRGRAM 215 DATED AUG 17).

8. UK REP (ALLEN) PRAISED THE "WORKMANLIKE WAY" THEGROUP
OF SEISMIC EXPERTS HAD APPROACHED ITS TASK, AS SHOWN BY ITS
CARE IN KEEPING TO TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS, "LEAVING THE TASK
OF POLITICAL INTERPRETATION TO THE CCD AND TO GOVERNMENTS."
ALLEN JOINED DUTCH AND SWEDISH CALL FOR WIDENED REPRESENTATION
IN SEISMIC GROUP, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING CCD "EASTERN"
GROUP COUNTRIES AND POINTING OUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES POSSESS
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ALSO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE THAT
NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION, PRINCIPALLY TELESEISMIC MEANS,
ARE ADEQUATE FOR MONITORING A CTB.

9. ON SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, UK REP DECLARED THAT POTENTIAL
NEW MDW "EITHER FALL WITHIN THE EXISTING CATEGORIES OF ATOMIC,
BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL WEAPONS OR ARE POSTULATED TO SPRING
FROM BRANCHES OF SCIENCE WHICH WILL REQUIRE MANY MORE
YEARS OF RESEARCH BEFORE THERE CAN BE ANY REAL THREAT."
FURTHR, ALLEN SAID, THE UK WOULD NOT WANT TO COMPLICATE
EXISTING NEGOTIATIONS, NOTABLY ON CW, BY "AN OVERLAPPING
CATEGORY WITHIN THE TERM 'NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.' "

IN ADDITION, HE SAID IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE SERIOUS TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE STRENGTH AND COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF THE BWC. INSTEAD OF THE SOVIET APPROACH, ALLEN DECLARED, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENT TO DISCUSS NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH MDW POTENTIAL AS THEY COME INTO GENERAL VIEW.

10. SWEDISH REP (HAMILTON), COMMENTING ON THE DIFFICULTY OF DEFINING AND SETTING THE SCOPE FOR AN AGREEMENT ON NEW MDW, DECLARED THAT "A TREATY WHICH IS NOT FULLY CONSISTENT AND WATERPROOF IN ITS PROVISIONS WILL DIMINISH RATHER THAN INCREASE OVERALL SECURITY." HAMILTON CITED THE AUG 1948 DEFINITION OF MDW ADOPTED BY THE UN COMMISSION FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS, UNDER WHICH SUCH WEAPONS INCLUDE "ATOMIC EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS, RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL WEAPONS, LETHAL CHEMICAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND ANY WEAPON DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE, WHICH HAVE CHARACTERISTICS COMPARABLE IN DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT TO THOSE OF THE ATOMIC BOMB, OR OTHER WEAPONS ABOVE." CONSIDERATION OF THIS DEFINITION, HE SAID, LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NBC WEAPONS ARE ALREADY INCLUDED AS MDW, AND THUS THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF NBC WEAPONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED NEW MDW. INSTEAD, SWEDEN CONSIDERS THAT SUCH NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE COVERED BY EXISTING TREATIES OR TREATIES UNDER DISCUSSION, AND REGARDSTHE REVIEW PROVISIONS OF THE BWC APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSING NEW BIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

11. THE 1948 DEFINITION, HAMILTON SAID, ALSO IMPLIES THAT THE DEGREE AND TYPE OF DESTRUCTION HAVE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE MAINTAINED THAT THE CRITERIA PRESENTED IN THE SOVIET WORKING PAPER WERE TOO BROAD AND REQUIRED "CONSIDERABLE RESTRICTION." ADDRESSING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL'S BAN ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF QUALITATIVELY NEW MDW, HAMILTON SAID THAT VERIFYING THAT DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION WERE NOT TAKING PLACE IS "IMMENSELY DIFFICULT" AND ALSO REQUIRES DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS. FURTHER, HE SAID, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORESEE THE MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF PARTICULAR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES.

12. ON THE UK DRAFT TABLED AT THE PRECEDING PLENARY, HAMILTON SAID IT IS A "CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION" AND THAT IT REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY. HE SAID SWEDEN LOOKS FORWARD TO SERIOUS AND CONCRETE TALKS ON IT DURING CCD'S SPRING 1977 SESSION.

13. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) INTRODUCED A WORKING PAPER PRESENTING A POSSIBLE FORM FOR AN LD50 SPECTRUM AS AN AID TO CW

DISCUSSIONS. HE STATED THAT THE PAPER ELABORATES ON THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF MANY COUNTRIES THAT TOXICITY SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY CRITERION IN THE DELIMITING CW AGENTS. OGISO ALSO CALLED FOR SERIOUS CW DISCUSSIONS NEXT YEAR, BASED ON THE UK DRAFT.

14. IN TOUR D'HORIZON ECHOING SOVIET THEMES, HUNGARIAN REP (DOMOKOS) PRAISED THE PNE TREATY RECENTLY CONCLUDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN THE US AND USSR, SINGLING OUT ARTICLE VI(1) WHICH STATES THAT THE PARTIES SHALL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR PROVIDING PNE SERVICES TO NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES PARTIES TO THE NPT, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE V OF THE TREATY. HE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON JAPANESE ACCESSION TO THE NPT, AND INDICATED APPROVAL OF THE SOVIET APPROACH TO CTB NEGOTIATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN UNGA RESOLUTION 3478.

15. DOMOKOS, DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO CW VERIFICATION ISSUES, HELD THAT "A SYSTEM OF CONTINUOUS ON-SITE INSPECTION, IN ITSELF, BASED ON DECLARED FACILITIES AND STOCKS, CANNOT GIVE A FACTUAL ASSURANCE AGAINST EVENTUAL EVASION OF A BAN." YET, HE ADDED, THIS SYSTEM WOULD INVOLVE UNJUSTIFIED DISADVANTAGES REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL SECRETS. THEREFORE, DOMOKOS STATED, HUNGARY REMAINS OF THE VIEW THAT CW VERIFICATION CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY NATIONAL MEANS COMBINED WITH INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES. THE BRITISH CW DRAFT, HE SAID, DESERVES "APPRECIATION AND ATTENTION, "BUT HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS APPLY TO ITS VERIFICATION PROVISIONS.

16. NEXT PLENARY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 19. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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